



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Hillsboro Conference

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Thanksgiving 2017

Dear Friend of St. Vincent De Paul,

At this time of year, we at SVDP St. Matthew are especially grateful for friends like you. You make it possible for us to go on serving the poor and hungry of Hillsboro, North Plains and Cornelius. To be frank, this has been truly a banner year in terms of funds donated. Part of that has been the windfall at the last Christmas season when some companies matched and even tripled the donations of their employees and retirees. That may have been your company. It was a huge gift. Also, the Christmas tree sale was bigger and better than ever. This year Frank Lux has been unable to find free or affordable trees for the sale. (Let us know if you have a resource.) Our regular donors have been steady and generous. I should mention the gift of donated professional labor by several during our repair and upgrade adventures.

I want you to know that we DO NOT TAKE YOU FOR GRANTED. Here are some of the ways we have spent the generous funds you contribute in addition to food purchases and normal expenses. We purchased a 2016 larger van which will eventually replace our much older and well used red vehicle. This allows us to carry larger loads from our partner stores. We are moving toward adapting the inside with steps, handles, etc. to make it more user friendly. In addition to the repairs necessitated by four sprinkler system breaks/floods, we were able to upgrade the front office, inner office, shelving and other smaller items. We are giving some consideration to replacing two very large walk-in freezers purchased 20 years ago. They are in need of repair repeatedly.

We have been able to give more liberally to those in need of rent assistance and utility payments. The need is immense and cries out for a compassionate response. I do not see this decreasing in the light of a shortage of shelter and lowcost housing as well as inability of governing agencies to keep up. Your generosity and our assistance are a short term solution for those who are indeed just desperate but does not solve the underlying ongoing problems. It is rewarding to see the smiles, tears, sighs of relief and even hugs when we can keep hope alive for a while longer.

We share our resources with others as we are able: money to support the weekly mobile kitchen provided by the Portland Council, donation to SVDP Disaster relief, donation to a neighboring much smaller conference, property clean-up, excess food shared with senior centers, boys and girls club, Centro Cultural and more.

Our volunteers are faithful and hard-working. Many in the larger community are amazed to know that we operate with an entirely volunteer base. You share in our joy that Stan and Len Miller were invited to participate in the 400 year celebration of SVDP in Rome complete with a papal audience. You can offer your prayerful support to Greg Clemmons who is joining the National SVDP Disaster Relief Team for a week in Puerto Rico this December. There are close to 90 active volunteers of whom you can be proud.

You may or may not help the work of SVDP in a physical way but your participation is truly a blessing from God and I thank you. We all thank you. The people of our community thank you.

*Blessings,
Linda Jaydel*